United Nations A/58/776

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 April 2004

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 60
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 20 April 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), we have the honour to forward to you the text of a joint declaration on multilateralism as agreed at the recent EU-AU ministerial troika meeting held in Dublin on 1 April 2004 (see annex). We request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ireland

(*Signed*) Filipe **Chidumo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mozambique

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Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

European Union/Africa Joint Declaration on Effective Multilateralism

The European Union and Africa share a core belief in the multilateral system of collective security enshrined in the United Nations, and share the premise that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with the UN Charter. The European Union and Africa are also committed to achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights. They recognise the need to make the multilateral system more responsive and effective in meeting global threats and challenges.

The European Union and Africa are agreed that an effective multilateral system, including a rule-based international order and strong international institutions, is essential to addressing the inter-related problems of conflict, poverty, underdevelopment and the absence of human security. They regard such a system as essential in confronting threats such as HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, the proliferation of small arms, poverty, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, and environmental degradation.

The European Union and Africa are committed to the continued reform and revitalization of the United Nations system and noted the establishment by the UN Secretary General of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. The European Union took note of the position of Africa on the reform of the UN Security Council, including permanent representation of Africa in the Council.

The European Union and Africa are committed to the implementation of the Millennium Summit Declaration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, they are determined to implement the results of recent UN global High-Level Conferences and look forward to a comprehensive review of progress at a high-level plenary meeting within the 60th United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

The European Union and Africa will continue to promote open, equitable, rules-based and non discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems that benefit all countries in the pursuit of sustainable development. They support the successful completion of the work programme contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. They welcome the decision contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme of the Declaration, including through enhanced market access for products of developing countries. The EU and Africa

encourage ongoing efforts by international financial and trade institutions to ensure that decision-making processes and institutional structures are open and transparent.

The European Union and Africa are agreed on the importance of the primary objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the socio-economic programme of the African Union - poverty eradication, sustainable growth, bridging the digital divide and halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process - and of the structured basis for the attainment of those objectives, especially peace and security, good governance and regional co-operation, and economic partnership agreements. They welcome the decision of the AU Assembly in Maputo to integrate NEPAD into the AU structures and processes within a period of three years. They recognize the important role played by the regional economic communities, as building blocks of the AU in the implementation of NEPAD.

The European Union and the African Union are agreed that their shared response to issues of human security should be based on the concepts of responsibility, prevention, capability and partnership. They recognise that the European Security Strategy and the African Common Defence and Security Policy enshrines these concepts, and the determination of the European Union to develop a more active, capable and coherent response to key threats can be of particular value in addressing problems of human security in Africa, in particular those of regional conflicts and state failure.

The European Union welcomes the progress made by the African Union in establishing of a continental architecture for peace and security and the operationalisation of the Peace and Security Council, which will evidently make a significant contribution in strengthening Africa's capacity for the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the continent.

The European Union and Africa are agreed that good governance and respect for human rights and humanitarian law, along with economic development and the alleviation of poverty, are central to the prevention of conflict. They welcome the establishment of the African owned mechanisms – the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa to promote these objectives. They acknowledge the central role of the United Nations in promoting observance of and respect for human rights and agree to work more closely within the UN Commission for Human Rights in order to strengthen the effectiveness of its decision-making process. They are agreed that the accelerated empowerment of women presents a key opportunity for progress and recall the provisions of UN SCR 1325 of 31 October 2000 on women, power and security which urges, inter alia, an increased decision-making role for women in relation to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

The European Union and Africa underlined the strong commitment to end impunity and agreed on a speedy ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute. They also welcome the coming into force of the protocol for the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights and believe that this Court will make a major contribution to safeguarding and ensuring observance of human rights throughout Africa.

The European Union and Africa are committed to reinforcing their cooperation with each other and with the United Nations in identifying threats to peace and security and in developing preventive actions, in supporting multilateral actions aimed at dealing with global threats such as terrorism and various dimensions of conflicts such as arms trafficking and illegal exploitation of natural resources, in enhancing their support to crisis management, including by supporting United Nations peace-keeping operations and by participating in peace-keeping operations authorized by the United Nations, and in cooperating with the UN in affording assistance to states emerging from conflict.

The EU and Africa will continue to cooperate in the UN and elsewhere, in order to support the global fight against terrorism.

They recognise the role that regional and sub-regional organisations, can play in the maintenance of international peace and security. They particularly stress that such transboundary problems as armed groups, refugees, child soldiers and arms trafficking need to be dealt with at the regional level.

The need to strengthen African peace support operation capabilities, in cooperation with the UN, is recognised. The European Union and the African Union are united in their determination to make the African Peace Facility, established by the European Union, operational without delay. They also look forward to further progress being made towards the establishment of the Early Warning System and deployment of an Africa Stand-By Force.

The EU and Africa agreed to continue to develop their co-operation in the interest of effective multilateralism and to intensify their co-operation in the UN and in other international organisations.

Dublin, 1 April 2004